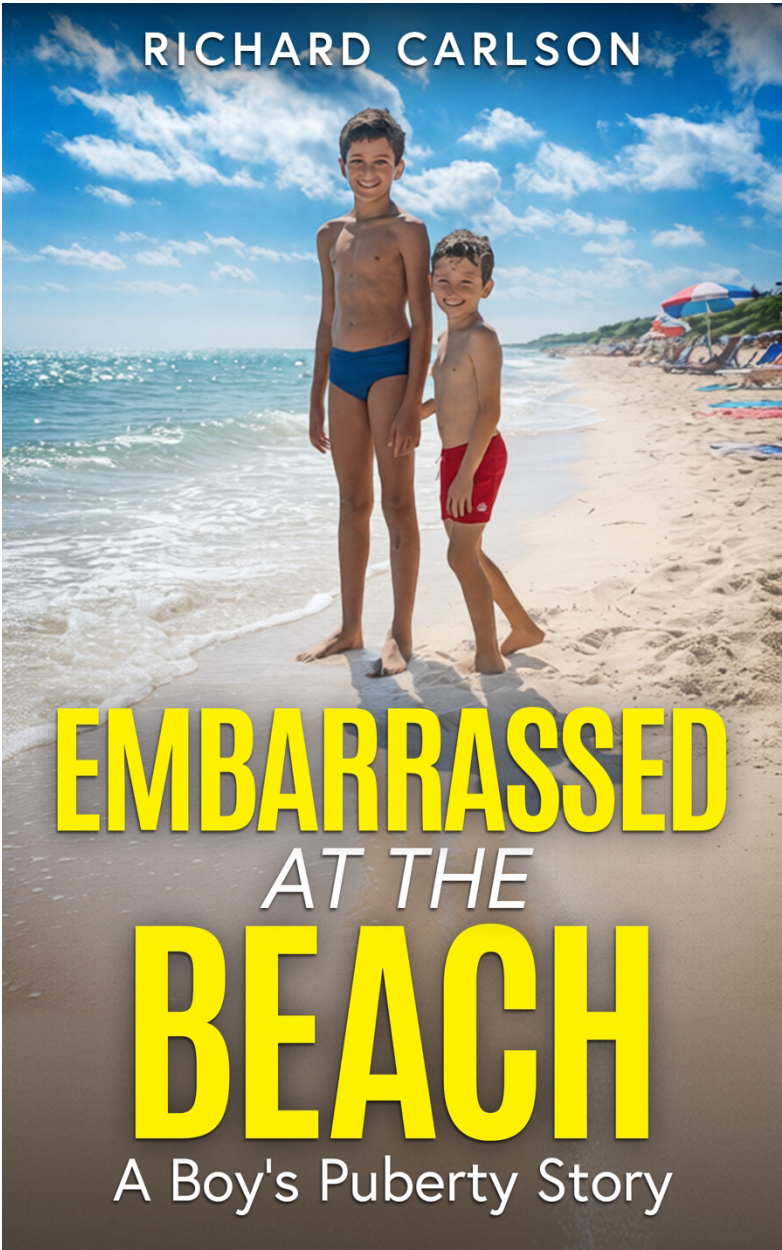


A photograph of two young boys standing on a sandy beach. The boy on the left is taller, wearing blue swim trunks, and the boy on the right is shorter, wearing red swim trunks. They are both smiling at the camera. The background shows the ocean with gentle waves, a blue sky with scattered white clouds, and a beach umbrella in the distance.

RICHARD CARLSON

EMBARRASSED *AT THE* BEACH

A Boy's Puberty Story

Embarrassed at the Beach: A Boy's Puberty Story

Richard Carlson

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About the story: Shy and sensitive thirteen-year-old Gavin experiences a very embarrassing situation because of his younger brother's innocent carelessness.

About the author: Richard Carlson is an author of children's and coming-of-age books. He is a highly sensitive person, or HSP. You can learn more about him at

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My name is Gavin, and in the summer of 1984, I was thirteen; Todd, my younger brother, had just turned nine. Todd and I were on vacation with our family in California at a nice resort.

It was afternoon, and we were on the beach. We had never been to the beach and couldn't wait to go swimming.

Todd and I waited in line to change into our suits at a small changing building. I held Mom's tote with sunflower prints all over it; his

suit and my Speedo and a bunch of other things were tucked inside.

“Use the changing room together,” Mom directed, “so you can swim sooner.” She was hoping that her sons would have a blast on the beach.

“Okay,” we said, smiling. We couldn’t wait to swim.

Mom and Dad left the area to sit and relax under a beach umbrella.

It was finally our turn; we went inside, and I closed the door. We

stripped. We had seen each other naked at home plenty of times; Todd had learned a little about puberty from seeing me naked, as I have had pubic hair for a year now.

I handed Todd his red suit, and then I searched for mine in Mom's tote while he put his suit on.

After donning his suit, without warning, Todd threw open the door and ran out, exposing my naked body to a group of very beautiful brunette teenage girls who were waiting in line. The door had flung open all the way

against the wall! I had to step far out of the building to reach the door handle, exposing my nude body completely to everyone. To make matters worse, as I pulled the door closed, it got stuck halfway and stopped. It resisted, and I had to pull even harder. Everyone saw my erect penis and full bush of pubic hair. I was so, so embarrassed. I felt my face turn bright red as I finally was able to shut the door. My heart beat up and out of my throat.

I could hear the girls giggling and giggling and giggling outside. I just stood there, safe inside, completely embarrassed, but happy that the girls could no longer see my naked body.

After putting on my blue Speedo, I went out, looking at my feet the entire time as I walked right past the girls and approached my family. I could hear the girls giggling and giggling. How embarrassing!

I took my brother to an area away from the girls, and we went

swimming. Todd and I had a blast.
The beach was so much fun!

Later that day, when my family and I were checking out of the hotel, I saw the girls in the lobby with their parents; the girls smiled at me. One of them, a girl with cute ponytails, winked at me as she smiled. I smiled back at her, tilting my head to the side, feeling my chest tingle. She really liked me; I really liked her.

It was too bad that my family and I were leaving for the airport.

On the taxi ride to the airport, I daydreamed about bear-hugging, cuddling, and kissing that girl over and over again.

Shucks! Maybe, next summer, we'd meet again.